

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9138

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 3707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MO, SS, ECON

SUBJECT: KING'S BIRTHDAY SPEECH

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. KING DELIVERED HIS TRADITIONAL BIRTHDAY ADDRESS TO NATION EVENING JULY 8, SPEAKING IN DIALECTICAL ARABIC IN 37-MINUTE TELEVISED BROADCAST FROM CASABLANCA. KING DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND REGIONAL TENSIONS, WARNING ALGERIA TO CEASE SPONSORING ATTACKS ON MOROCCAN FORCES. END SUMMARY

2. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

A. ELECTIONS. SERIES OF ELECTIONS WOULD COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER RAMADAN, KING STATED. MOROCCO SHOULD RETURN TO "TRUE" DEMOCRACY. FIRST COMMUNAL AND RURAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD, THEN PROFESSIONAL, THEN REGIONAL

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AND PROVINCIAL, AND FINALLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY WOULD BE IN PLACE IN TIME TO OPEN IN APRIL, AS PROVIDED IN THE CONSTITUTION. KING HAD PREPARED "DETAILED SCHEDULE" FOR THESE EVENTS, BUT DID NOT REVEAL WHAT IT WAS.

B. ELECTIONS WOULD REQUIRE THAT EVERYONE "PLAY WITHOUT CHEATING." THERE NO POINT IN CONTINUING TO TALK ABOUT TWO PREVIOUS (PARLIAMENTARY) FAILURES BECAUSE THESE THINGS SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN. "NEWLY PROMULGATED" ATTRIBUTES OF LOCAL BODIES WENT "VERY FAR" IN GIVING LOCAL OFFICIALS AUTHORITY THEY NEEDED. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WOULD BE SUPERVISED BY LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS, WHO WOULD ALSO CONTROL BUDGET EXPENDITURES. FROM THESE ELECTED BODIES HOPEFULLY WOULD COME FUTURE GOVERNMENT LEADERS OF MOROCCO, SO THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD NO LONGER BE RUN BY TECHNOCRATS.

C. A COUNCIL HEADED BY KING WOULD BE CREATED CONSISTING OF LEADERS OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. KING WOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN ITS WORK. INSTITUTION OF MOROCCAN DEMOCRACY WOULD BUILD COUNTRY AND "INCREASE ENVY OF THOSE WHO ENVY US."

D THE ECONOMY. THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS RISE IN PRICES, KING INDICATED, AND HE WAS AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES MOROCCAN CITIZENS EXPERIENCING. PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WAS THAT FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 1976 GOM HAD SPENT \$1.27 BILLION, THIRD OF WHICH FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. BY END OF CURRENT YEAR GOM WOULD HAVE SPENT \$1.59 BILLION. SAHARA WAS GENERATING HEAVY ECONOMIC BURDEN.

E. KING APPEALED FOR "SOCIAL PEACE" UNTIL END OF YEAR, PROMISING REVISION OF SALARIES BY FIRST OF NEXT YEAR. ALSO ANNOUNCED KICKOFF OF "NATIONAL LOAN FOR SAHARA" TO BE SPENT FOR SAHARA DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. "LOAN", WHICH APPEARED TO BE BOND FLOTATION, WOULD BE FOR \$227 MILLION. ONE OF ITS PURPOSES WOULD BE TO SHOW "OTHERS" MOROCCO'S DETERMINATION.

F. SAHARA AND ALGERIA. MOROCCAN FORCES PRAISED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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WITHSTANDING GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN SAHARA. MOROCCO WOULD "NEVER" BARGAIN OVER SAHARA NOR SUBMIT TO ANY PRESSURE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE "GREATEST TREASON" TO NEGOTIATE OR FIND "ILLEGAL SOLUTION" WHILE MOROCCO'S SONS DYING. MOROCCO NOT ISSUING CHALLENGE BUT WOULD MEET ANY CHALLENGES WHICH CAME ITS WAY. PATIENCE HAD ITS LIMITS WHICH COULD NOT BE SURPASSED. EACH MOROCCAN SOLDIER OR POLICEMAN REPRESENTED PIECE OF MOROCCAN

SOVEREIGNTY AND ANY AGGRESSION AGAINST THEM ALSO AGAINST MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO MISTAKE MOROCCAN PATIENCE FOR WEAKNESS OR FEAR. IF "IDSASTER" OF WAR CAME ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE. MOROCCO NOT SEEKING WAR BUT WOULD NOT PERMIT ALGERIANS TO COME AND ATTACK US HERE.

G. MOROCCO HAD FOUGHT MANY WARS IN ITS HISTORY. SOME VICTORIOUS, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, BUT AT LEAST COUNTRY HAD MAINTAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE UNTIL 1912 WHILE OTHERS WERE BEING REPEATEDLY DOMINATED BY THE ABASSIDS AND THE TURKS. "I SAY TO ALGERIA", KING STRESSED, THAT MOROCCO HAS THE TRAINING THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE. "WE PLEAD WITH YOU IN NAME OF ISLAM, ARABISM AND IN NEIGHBORLINESS AND COMMON BLOOD" TO STOP BECAUSE THINGS HAVE REACHED A CLIMAX AND OUR PATIENCE HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED AND OUR TOLERANCE HAS DECREASED GREATLY. "WE PRAY GOD" THAT THIS APPEAL FINDS ATTENTIVE EARS, KING UNDERLINED.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KING APPEARED CALM AND CONFIDENT THROUGHOUT, ON SUBJECT OF SAHARA AND ALGERIA HE TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT MOROCCO'S PATIENCE STRETCHED TO LIMITS IN LIGHT OF POLISARIO ATTACKS, AND THAT SAHARA NOT NEGOTIABLE. SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN SET TONE OF ITS REPORT ON SPEECH BY HEADLINING KING'S "SERIOUS WARNING TO ALGERIAN LEADERS." KING TAUNTED ALGERIA ON A NUMBER OF POINTS, ALLUDING TO ITS ALLEGED "ENVY" OF MOROCCO, MOROCCO'S HISTORICAL SUPERIORITY, AND BETTER STATE OF TRAINING OF MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES.

4. TONE OF SPEECH SEEMED TO SIGNAL NEW MOROCCAN DETERMINATION TO DIG IN, POSSIBLY IN LIGHT OF ALGERIAN DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES IN PORT LOUIS AND POSSIBLE
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SIMILAR ONSLAUGHT IN COLOMBO. KING'S OMISSIONS ALSO OF INTEREST. HE DID NOT ADDRESS QUESTION OF OUTSTANDING UN RESOLUTION ON THE SAHARA. HE ALSO DID NOT DISCUSS MEDIATION BY THIRD PARTIES OR CONSIDERATION BY INTERNATIONAL FORA, MOST SIGNIFICANTLY THE UN AND ANY ROLE IT MIGHT HAVE IN THE FUTURE. BORDERS WERE NOT RAISED, ALTHOUGH HE DID RULE OUT "ILLEGAL SOLUTIONS", A POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO SOME COMPROMISE PROPOSALS. FINALLY, BOUMEDIENE WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME

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5. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT KING'S HARDEST WORDS FOR ALGERIA WERE FRAMED IN PRAISE FOR MOROCCO'S ARMED FORCES, SEEMINGLY ASSURING THEM THAT THEIR SUFFERING NOT IN VAIN NOR WOULD THEIR SACRIFICES BE UNDERMINED BY DIPLOMATIC CONCESSIONS. KING LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HIS THRONE RESTED ON TOTAL COMMITMENT TO KEEP SAHARA MOROCCAN.

6. KING'S REMARKS ON THE ECONOMY, TREATED IN MORE DETAIL IN SEPTTEL, WERE ALSO KEYED TO SAHARA DIFFICULTIES. LIKEWISE, HIS CALL FOR BELT-TIGHTENING AND "SOCIAL PEACE" UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR MAY RELATE TO MOROCCAN EXPECTATIONS THAT ITS SAHARA POSITION BY THEN WILL BE STRONGER REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AND POSE LESS OF A DRAIN ON GOM RESOURCES.

7. HOW POLITICAL OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL REACT TO HIS ELECTION REMARKS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HE ANNOUNCED THAT
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THE ATTRIBUTES FOR THE LOCAL BODIES HAD BEEN PROMULGATED.
THIS CONFIRMS FEARS WHICH OUR PARTY CONTACTS HAVE BEEN
VOICING IN RECENT DAYS THAT KING MIGHT NOT FULFILL
EARLIER PRIVATE COMMITMENT TO PARTY LEADERS THAT THEY
WOULD BE CONSULTED ON ATTRIBUTES. HOWEVER, FORMATION
OF COMMISSION FULFILLS ANOTHER ROYAL PROMISE, AND TRIALS
UNDERWAY OF A NUMBER OF LONG-INCARCERATED POLITICAL
PRISONERS MAY ASSUAGE PARTIES ENOUGH TO OBTAIN THEIR
ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTORAL PROCESS. MORE
BARGAINING, PARTICULARLY OVER POWERS OF COMMISSION, SEEMS
LIKELY BEFORE THEY GIVE THAT ASSENT, HOWEVER. WEAKER
PARTIES SUCH AS UNFP AND PPS MAY WELL CONTINUE TO FEEL
VULNERABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT READY. LONG
PATTERN OF SLIPPAGE IN ELECTION TIMETABLES MAKES US ALL
CAUTIOUS. REGIONAL TENSIONS WILL CONTINUE
TO PLAY A ROLE IN WHETHER HE STICKS TO SCHEDULE,
WITH THE BIG TEST COMING AS PROMISED PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS APPROACH.
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